

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A user interface for a portable electronic device comprising a first row of input keys, a  
2 second row of input keys adjacent to the first row, and a third row of input keys adjacent to  
3 the second row, wherein each key of the first row represents a linear character stroke, each  
4 key of the third row represents a non-linear character stroke, and the second row includes at  
5 least one key representing a linear characters stroke and at least one key representing a non-  
6 linear character stroke.

1 2. The user interface of claim 1, wherein the second row includes at least one key  
2 representing a dot.

1 3. The user interface of claim 1, wherein said angular character strokes include a  
2 clockwise hook component, a counter-clockwise hook component, a clockwise angular  
3 component, and a counter-clockwise angular component.

1 4. The user interface of claim 3, wherein:  
2 the clockwise hook component includes a substantially downward line having an end  
3 portion that hooks to the left;

4 the counter-clockwise hook component includes a substantially downward line having  
5 an end portion that hooks to the right;

6 the clockwise angular component includes a substantially rightward line having an  
7 end portion that angles downward; and

8 the counter-clockwise angular component includes a substantially downward line  
9 having an end portion that angles to the right.

1 5. The user interface of claim 1, wherein said linear character strokes include a  
2 substantially horizontal component, a substantially vertical component, a leftward slant  
3 component, and a rightward slant component.

1 6. The user interface of claim 5, wherein:  
2 the substantially horizontal component is directed rightward;  
3 the substantially vertical component is directed downward;  
4 the leftward slant component is directed downward and to the left; and  
5 the rightward slant component is directed downward and to the right.

1 7. A user interface for a portable electronic device comprising a group of nine input keys  
2 representing numbers 1 through 9, wherein input key 7, input key 8 and input key 9 also  
3 represent non-linear character strokes.

1 8. The user interface of claim 7, wherein input key 1, input key 2 and input key 3 also  
2 represent linear character strokes.

1 9. The user interface of claim 7, wherein input key 4 represents a dot.

1 10. The user interface of claim 7, wherein input key 5 represents a non-linear character  
2 stroke.

1 11. The user interface of claim 7, wherein input key 6 also represents a linear character  
2 stroke.

1 12. The user interface of claim 7, wherein the group of nine input keys are arranged in  
2 three rows and three columns to form a three-by-three matrix of input keys.

1 13. A user interface for a portable electronic device comprising:  
2 a plurality of single stroke keys corresponding to individual character strokes used to  
3 form a particular ideographic character; and  
4 at least one combination stroke key corresponding to a particular sequence of the  
5 plurality of single stroke keys used to form the particular ideographic character.

1 14. The user interface of claim 13, wherein the individual character strokes include linear  
2 character strokes, non-linear character strokes and at least one dot.

1 15. The user interface of claim 13, wherein:  
2 the plurality of single stroke keys corresponds to a substantially vertical component, a  
3 clockwise angular component and a substantially horizontal component; and  
4 the at least one combination stroke key corresponds to a box formed from the  
5 substantially vertical component, the clockwise angular component and the substantially  
6 horizontal component.

1 16. The user interface of claim 13, wherein the plurality of single stroke keys represents  
2 numbers 1 through 9 of a numeric keypad, and the at least one combination stroke key  
3 represents number 0 of the numeric keypad.

1 17. The user interface of claim 13, wherein the at least one combination stroke key  
2 corresponds to a "kou" component of an Asian language.

1 18. A portable electronic device for processing an ideographic character having at least  
2 one ideographic section, the portable electronic device comprising:  
3 a keypad including a plurality of single stroke keys and a combination stroke key,  
4 each single stroke key corresponding an individual character stroke and the combination  
5 stroke key corresponding to a particular sequence of the plurality of single stroke keys;  
6 a processor coupled to the keypad, the processor being capable of forming at least one  
7 ideographic section upon selection of the particular sequence of the plurality of single stroke  
8 keys and being capable of forming the at least one ideographic section upon selection of the  
9 combination stroke key; and  
10 a display coupled to the processor to show the at least one ideographic section.

1 19. The user interface of claim 18, wherein the individual character stroke is one of a  
2 group consisting of a linear character stroke, a non-linear character stroke and a dot.

1 20. The user interface of claim 18, wherein:  
2 the plurality of single stroke keys corresponds to a substantially vertical component, a  
3 clockwise angular component and a substantially horizontal component; and  
4 the combination stroke key corresponds to a box formed from the substantially  
5 vertical component, the clockwise angular component and the substantially horizontal  
6 component.

1 21. The user interface of claim 18, wherein the display shows ideographic sections of an  
2 Asian language.

1 22. The user interface of claim 18, wherein the combination stroke key corresponds to a  
2 "kou" component of an Asian language.